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Studiis & rebus honestis.

To make any business productive it must be well and industriously followed. It ought principally to engage our time & should never be neglected for other pursuits. As learning is one of the greatest of ornaments, & professional knowledge is absolutely necessary for those who aspire to professional

honours, he who would attain to either of these, must devote most of his time to study and reflection. It is vain, without a close application to the nature of things, to hope for an acquaintance with their principles. If we skim over the surface we may appear to know, but there can be no certainty in our knowledge. We must dive deep into the hidden recesses of knowledge, examine its principles, and enquire into the whole system — the truth of these facts will

not be doubted. We pro-
ceed therefore to the object
of this Essay, the best mode
of pursuing Professional
Studies, and the temper
of mind calculated to
insure our pleasure in
the progress to knowl-
edge. It is first neces-
sary to acquire a love
for our Professional
Studies. That indus-
try will attain to little
which is applied to the
ever unwilling humours.
It will be ready at all
times to wander off to
other subjects, and will
lose its weight and

efficacy, its power and
effect in the recollection
of objects more dear &
more congenial. Let
the Student therefore, if
he feel a dislike to the
Profession which has
been selected for him,
either leave it for those
pursuits which fancy has
painted in more agreeable
colours, or by reasoning
and common sense, en-
deavour to acquire a
temper congenial to his
Studies, such as will ensure
his future success, and
lead him on with a
willing foot on the high
way of virtue, and

happiness, and prosperity. There ~~are~~ is so great a diversity in the situations of ~~them~~ men in relation to character, fortune and rank in Society, that it is almost impossible for ~~them~~ Students all to have equal advantages in the progress of their Studies. Great wealth and poverty in this respect produce nearly the same result. Wealth has so many charms and offers so many temptations that it requires more than ordinary virtue to escape them; and poverty requires ~~do~~ mind so hardy, demands so much management of affairs, so strict an economy, that

it is difficult without
undaunted perseverance
to make good its course over the
preliminary obstacles which
bar its approaches to the
object of its wishes. As far
as it may be in his power
the student should acquire
a freedom from the
cares of the world, and
give his whole soul to
the calm undisturbed
pursuit of his profession.
When he can do this
he will burn with a
kind of holy ardour
in the pursuit; he will
take every opportunity
to extend his ideas and

settle his information; he will propose a resolution which no opposition can vanquish, no obstacle overcome. He must next acquire proper habits of study. ~~A~~ Habit enslaves us; the habits of a few months growth may fix itself upon us for our lives. Its good or bad consequences may be easily imagined; as they serve to establish good or bad practices. In the life of a Student it is peculiarly important; and we cannot too soon or too eagerly

establish fixed Rules for all ~~the~~ our avocations and duties, for Exercise - diet - Sleep - Recreation - Study. Hours should be settled, and Times appointed for each. The Student will be surprized to find as he advances how much depends upon orderly arrangement, and that there is nothing so long or laborious but may be vanquished by regular unfailing industry. It is not by sometimes doing a great deal at once that we gain knowledge; the heights of a Profession are not to carried by

an irregular assault; ~~but~~ ~~it~~ it will not surrender at discretion, but must be ~~carried~~ gained by a long and unremitting siege. In marking out a plan for reading, let the Student seek the advice of an experienced friend; it is of the utmost importance to peruse those Books first which contain the general principles, and axioms of the Profession. There must be established ere he can comprehend the ~~truths~~ grounded upon them. Were he to plunge at once

into the science without an acquaintance with these preliminaries, he would be involved in error, and perhaps find to his sorrow that it was necessary to return back to first principles.

He should give his attention almost exclusively to Professional Authors. The love of general information must not interfere with the course of his studies. He is striving to become distinguished not so much for literary as for professional attainments. If he sacrifice the latter for the former

he will not indeed debase his Gold into brass, but he may probably find that his Gold will not prevent him from starving. Students should guard themselves on this point, because it is a vice on which they are apt to be weak; to know, or to seem to know every thing, gratifies vanity, and the excursive flights into the fair regions of literature are far more agreeable than the delays of professional labour. The Sages of the Moralist, the Poet, and Historian, become every day more

fascinating till we are
in danger of giving
our whole souls to
these more agreeable
objects. We enter our
protest most decidedly
against the charms of
general literature - The
student may be allowed
occasional indulgence
but let him beware of the
excess. He might make
this indulgence occasion-
ally the reward of some
great exertion, and thus
be allured to arduous unde-
takings by the pleasures
which are to succeed the
accomplishment.

We caution the Studen

against the fascinations of what are miscalled pleasures. That Man who has addicted himself to the Bottle, the Gaming Table, or any fashionable mode of dissipation, has relinquished the prospect of future honour & respectability. Even innocent Amusements have their dangers, because they may serve to distract our attention from the proper objects of our employment, & dissipate the mind in little details unworthy of its care. He who engages

in them too freely,
will be incapable of
performing his duties in
a proper manner;
& if he indulges in im-
moral & unlawful pur-
suits, he is unworthy of
Public Patronage.

But the little denial
the ardent application,
the spirit of devotion to a
profession ~~are not to~~ which
we require as an earnest
of future success, are not
to be obtained without
a calm evenness of
temper, not easily ruffled
by common events. Those
who are burthened with
or subject to violent pas-
are mere children of

impulse; a way ward feeling
ever ~~d~~ destroying the effect
of regular application, &
preventing all fixed rules
for the governing of ~~their~~
lives.

There is but one cause
by which to insure this
felicity of soul; and that
is by the aid of true
Philosophy, Morality, & Relig-
ion - The first teaches us
to bear our lot by the aid
of human reason; - the second
secures our conduct towards
others; - and the last which
actually embraces the other
two, gives us a support to
our troubles, and opens the
prospect of a future reward.
With the aid of these, we can
look down upon common
cares, with unconcern, and

fix our whole attention upon the proper objects of our pursuit.

Thus girded up for every trial with proper habits of mind & body, we may predict that the student will reach to the honours of his Profession, and obtain the Respect & confidence of his fellow citizens. mm

W.